

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 in the East Greenwich Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were: Paul Martin, Dr. Al Ross, Steve Gregson, Sue Cienki, and Skip Day, as well as Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities. Mrs. Friedemann arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. State of District

- a. Superintendent's Update – There was no update
- b. Reports - Finance - None

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Mrs. Christine Mattos, Phillips Road, asked if the Committee will have participatory meetings with regard to the General Assembly's amendment on the local tax levy of 5.25% for the next fiscal year. She urged the Committee to work together to try to maintain high quality teachers and the level of sports participation. Mr. Meyers stated that he has had meetings with the Town Manager and will start planning and looking at priorities.

5. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the June 6 Regular and Executive Session minutes and the June 20 Regular and Executive Session minutes.

6. Disclosure of vote taken during Executive Session to hire Gregory Piccirilli as attorney to represent the school district in the John Doe vs. East Greenwich School District matter. At the June 20, 2006 Executive Session Meeting, Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to hire Attorney Gregory Piccirilli at a cost of \$150 per hour to work on the John Doe case. Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cienki, and Dr. Ross voted yes, and Mr. Gregson voted no. The motion passed.

7. New Business

7.1 Resignations

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following resignations:

7.1.1 Donna Phillips, National Junior Honor Society Advisor at Cole Middle, effective June 9, 2006

7.1.2 Jan Burch, Guidance Secretary at EGHS, effective August 20, 2006

7.1.3 Alexis Meyer, Mock Trial Advisor at Cole Middle School, effective July 10, 2006

7.2 Parental Leave

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following parental leave:

7.1.4 Bridget Keane, English Teacher at Cole Middle, from October 24 until the end of the 06-07 school year.

7.3 Appointments

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following appointments with the exception of 7.1.1, 7.1.12, and 7.1.13. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1.5 Tiffany Brown, English/Language Arts, 1.0 for ONE YEAR ONLY, at Cole Middle, effective August 29 TAKEN OFF AGENDA AT THIS TIME

7.1.6 Kelli O'Neill, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at Archie Cole Middle School, effective August 29

7.1.7 Elissa Berger, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at Archie Cole Middle School, effective August 29 FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

7.1.8 Deborah Maldonado, 1.0 Special Education Teacher at Archie Cole Middle School, effective August 29 FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

7.1.9 Kimberly Morgan, 0.8 Special Education Resource at East Greenwich High School, effective August 29

7.1.10 Marta Chace, 1.0 Math Position for EGHS, effective August 29

7.1.11 Stephen Levesque, 0.5 Math Position for EGHS effective 8-29

7.1.12 Jamie Cohen, Assistant Principal for EGHS

7.1.13 Patricia Page, Performance Based Graduation Requirements Teacher at EGHS, effective August 29

7.1.14 Kimberly Beaulieu, grade 3 Teacher at Meadowbrook Farms School, FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, effective August 29

7.1.15 Nathan Potter, Grade 3 Teacher at Meadowbrook Farms

School, effective August 29 (Nathan was hired last school year as a one year only teacher)

7.1.16 Jennifer Vadnais, Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher at Meadowbrook Farms, effective August 29

7.1.17 Kerri Doyle, Grade 3 Teacher at Frenchtown School, effective August 29 (Kerri was hired last school year as a one year only teacher)

7.1.18 Cynthia Kendall, Grade 1 Teacher at Frenchtown School, effective August 29 (Cynthia was hired last school year as a one year only teacher)

7.1.19 Amy Bell, Grade 6 at Hanaford School, effective August 29 (Amy was hired last school year as a one year only teacher)

7.1.20 Kimberly Bose, Grade 5 Teacher at Hanaford School, effective August 29 (Kimberly was hired last school year as a one year only teacher)

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to appoint Mr.

Jamie Cohen as Assistant Principal of East Greenwich High School. Mr. Cohen was

introduced to the Committee. Mr. Levine stated that Mr. Cohen comes highly recommended and feels he will provide for the health, safety and security of the students and the school. Mr. Gregson asked to have the appointment tabled since the Committee has no idea what contract they will be signing with him. Mrs. Cienki seconded the motion to table. Dr. Ross feels that the Superintendent should be given the people he wished to work with, and since the high school is

planning for the next school year the appointment should not be put off. Dr. Ross made a motion to amend, which was seconded by Mr. Bradley that his appointment be contingent upon the signing of a contract approved by our solicitor. Mrs. Cienki stated that Mr. Cohen has a terrific

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resume' but the Committee must accept Mrs. Cullen's resignation first, and the Committee doesn't want two people on the payroll. Mr. Matthew Oliverio, the Committee's lawyer, stated that there is a representation from Mrs. Cullen that the Committee should start the process of filling the position since the Committee doesn't want a disruption in the duties and responsibilities of that position. Mr. Oliverio stated that he is satisfied that Mrs. Cullen will not return to the position, and he did request that she send a letter of retirement or resignation. Mr. Oliverio recommended that the Committee accept the appointment of Mr. Cohen upon receiving a letter from Mrs. Cullen within the next 30 days, and pay Mr. Cohen on a per diem basis. Mr. Cohen stated that he understands the procedure but feels there is a lot of work to be done. Dr. Ross wants the Committee to take a risk because the students are more important. Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Cienki withdrew their amendment. Dr. Ross then made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to hire Mr. Cohen as a temporary Assistant Principal at EGHS over the next 30 days on a per diem basis, the amount to be suggested by the Superintendent, and ask Mrs. Cullen to present a letter within 30 days informing the Committee of her desire to retire. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted

that his benefits and pay would be retroactive to July 19, 2006.

7.1.13 Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the appointment of Patricia Page as Performance Based Graduation Requirement Coordinator at EGHS effective August 29, 2006. Mrs. Page thanked the Committee and looks forward to serving everyone. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Bid Awards

8.1 Roof Inspections at all schools-No action at this time.

8.2 HVAC Inspections at all schools

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to award the bid for HVAC inspections at all schools to Arden Engineering in the amount of \$24,788. The motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Substitute Caller Software

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to award the bid for the substitute caller software to AESOP in a collaborative effort with the Exeter/West Greenwich Public Schools at a cost of \$5700 per year. The motion passed unanimously.

8.4 Electronic Portfolio System

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to award the bid for the electronic portfolio system to Ideas Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$20,100. Mr. Meyers stated that this is funded by a grant and staff development, and is for the new graduation requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Bus Contract to Laidlaw for three years

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to award the bus transportation bid for three years to Laidlaw. Mr. Meyers

noted that an email request for responses to bus concerns was sent out by our list serve and 50 responses were received. These were shared with Laidlaw and the issues were addressed. Mr. Gregson asked about consolidating and evaluating the number of stops and buses. He also noted that there is a problem with drivers changing stops. Mrs. Crawford responded that they are looking at the current routing system and planning to change the school start times. GPS tracking for buses was mentioned and it will be explored by Laidlaw. Jim Flahive, Laidlaw Area Manager, stated that the routes will be developed and given to drivers with a directive not to change them. He also noted that at the

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regional meeting, East Greenwich Schools were recognized for their safety performance. Mrs. Friedemann asked about a stipulation in the contract that the school system get reimbursed when students are not picked up after sports events. Mr. Flahive stated that he hopes that will not happen because it means that Laidlaw had a problem. The motion passed unanimously.

9. First Reading of three policies:

Mr. Meyers read the policies and noted that this needs to be done before we enter into an agreement with Ed Nets to approve their web site service. He also noted that our solicitor has looked into these policies and gave his blessing. Mr. Oliverio noted that he has no problem with these policies. A second reading will be held in August.

Mr. Bradley doesn't want door to door advertising. Dr. Ross feels that this should open up a discussion with PTG's.

9.1 Policy on Web Advertising on School Websites

9.2 Directory Information and Student Records

9.3 Fundraising and Commercial Activity in Schools

10. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve disposing of obsolete equipment, with the exception of the Yamaha piano. Dr. Ross noted that he would like to hear from the music coordinator about the piano. The motion passed unanimously.

11. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Ross spoke about an article in the Providence Journal about a hurricane shelter at our high school. Mr. Meyers noted that Swift Gym will be the primary shelter.

Mrs. Cienki is concerned about the manner in which the Committee receives background information on personnel items. Mr. Meyers noted that there will be a common set of documents in the same order. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the Committee needs to look at the cost for everyone who is hired. Mr. Gregson feels there should be more lead time for documents the Committee receives for a vote. Mr. Gregson asked where the Committee will be in three years concerning the upcoming teacher contract negotiations, buses, warrant articles and the new warrant for the middle school.

12. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

Mrs. Mattos asked about the cost for the newly hired teachers. She is concerned with how the School Committee is spending their money as they have a fiduciary responsibility. Mr. Meyers responded that he will have an analysis in September of new teachers.

13. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2), Custodian Arbitration Decision, Special Education Litigation, Contract Negotiations, Update on Parent Concern.

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to go out of Executive Session at 8:55p.m. to announce the vote taken in Executive Session which stated that Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to deny a parent request for monetary compensation. The vote was 4 to 3 with Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin, Mr. Day and Dr. Ross voting yes, and Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voting no.

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary